

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1199

S E C R E T ROME 10800

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IT

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER MORO

REF: STATE 199733

1. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND FONMIN MORO ARE BEING HANDLED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, CHARGE HAD LUNCH WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL DUCCI OCTOBER 8 AND DUCCI EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT APPROPRIATE MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND MORO BE WORKED OUT.

2. BASED ON MCLOSKEY'S STATEMENT TO PRESS OCTOBER 7 (REFTEL) WE ASSUME THAT SECRETARY'S TRIP TO LONDON IS STILL ON. THE ITALIANS NOW UNDERSTAND THAT SECRETARY WILL VISIT BONN ON HIS WAY TO LONDON SINCE SCHEEL IS NOT ABLE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY IN LONDON. ITALIANS RECOGNIZE THAT SECRETARY OFFERED MORO A FIRM APPOINTMENT IN WASHINGTON FOR OCTOBER 8. MORO HAS BEEN IN FRANCE WITH PRESIDENT LEONE AND WILL HAVE TO GO AGAIN TO BENELUX FOR AN OFFICIAL STATE VISIT AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. GIVEN THE SERIOUS TESTS CONFRONTING THE RUMOR GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT, MORO DOES NOT FEEL HE SHOULD LEAVE FOR A WEEK OR SO IN THE UNITED STATES AT THIS TIME.

3. FOR SEVERAL REASONS IT LOOKS AS IF MORO MAY BE THE ONLY MAJOR FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NINE WHO WILL NOT HAVE SEEN THE SECRETARY DURING THIS PERIOD. IT WAS POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE  
SECRET

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FOR MORO TO MEET THE SECRETARY IN LONDON AS LONG AS SCHEEL WAS MAKING A SIMILAR TRIP. NOW THAT THE SECRETARY WILL VISIT SCHEEL COMPARISON ARE INVIDIOUS. ALSO THE SUGGESTION THAT GAJA AND DUCCI MIGHT MEET THE SECRETARY IN LONDON DOES NOT REPEAT NOT

MEET THE ITALIAN POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS.

4. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT THE ITALIANS ARE PROPOSING THAT THE SECRETARY DEPART FRIDAY EVENING INSTEAD OF SATURDAY MORNING TO ARRIVE IN MILAN BEFORE NOON ON SATURDAY IN TIME TO HAVE ABOUT THREE HOURS (INCLUDING LUNCH) WITH MORO BEFORE PROCEEDING TO BONN. MORO WOULD BE PREPARED TO TRAVEL TO MILAN IN ORDER TO MAKE THE SECRETARY'S TRIP ONWARD TO BONN THAT MUCH SHORTER.

5. THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE HAVE OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE NEED TO BE SEEN, TO BE CONSULTING WITH THE ITALIANS AS ONE OF OUR MAJOR ALLIES IN EUROPE. IT IS A CONCRETE EXPRESSION OF THE POLICY OF MAINTAINING ITALIAN GOOD WILL. FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT MORO FEELS THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS HELPFUL TO US AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN COPENHAGEN LAST SEPTEMBER WHEN THROUGH HIS STUBBORNNESS HE PREVENTED THE NINE FROM DECIDING ON A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AT A LEVEL BELOW WHAT WE WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE. AT MORO'S INSISTENCE THE MATTER WAS HELD OPEN. CONSEQUENTLY, MORO FEELS HE HAS BEEN DOING HIS BEST TO FURTHER ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIPS IN THE DIRECTION DESIRED BY US. TO THIS EXTENT HE WOULD APPRECIATE CONSIDERATION OF HIS OWN POLITICAL POSITION AND THE STANDING OF ITALY AMONG THE NINE.

6. RECOMMENDATION: IF AT ALL POSSIBLE THE SECRETARY SHOULD TRY TO ARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE TO MEET ITALIAN DESIRES AS REGARDS THIS MEETING. BEAUDRY

SECRET

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